THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The Gas Sales Agreement between GAIL and NTPC for supply of APM gas has expired on 31st March 2008. Both parties are discussing the signing of new agreements.

(b) Against firm allocation of around 11.8 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) for NTPC power plants, APM supply of natural gas by GAIL was around 9.28 MMSCMD in 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto 3rd quarter). The lower supply is because of lower availability of APM gas.

(c) and (d) The estimated gas requirement to operate the plant is around 17.35 MMSCMD However, the gas received in the year 2007-08 and 2006-07 is 11.75 and 12.67 MMSCMD respectively, including regassified liquefied natural gas (RLNG). Further, the plants can use alternative fuels.

The station-wise net shortfall in power generation due to fuel shortages during 2006-07 and 2007-08 as reported by Central Electricity Authority is as under:—

Station	2006-07 (in MU)	2007-08 (in MU)
Anta	337	597
Auraiya	776	1124
Dadri	936	1204
Faridabad	487	615
Kawas	1853	1651
Gandhar	662	1197
TOTAL	5051	6388

(e) The demand for natural gas in the country is higher than its production. The Government of India has initiated various steps to augment gas supplies for the domestic market. These cover:—

(1) Intensification in domestic E&P activities;

(2) Exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) gas;

(3) Implementation of Natural Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) for evaluation of hydrate resources and their possible commercial exploitation;

(4) LNG Import; and

(5) Gas sourcing through transnational gas pipelines.

Indraprastha Gas.Ltd.

3051. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indraprastha Gas Ltd. has been recently indicated by the MRTPC for profit making through monopolistic practices;

(b) if so, the details of the operative observations made by the MRTPC; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in view of the judgement of MRTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURA GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a notice of enquiry has bee received by IGL from MRTP Commission on the allegation of profit making throug monopolistic practices. The matter is subjudice and the first hearing is fixed on 27.5.200 before the MRTP Commission.

Ban on small cylinders

3052. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAI GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that domestic LPG is transferred to 1-2 kg small cylinder i various States such as Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop this illegal activity; and

(c) the steps taken to ban the sale of small cylinder which are manufactured illegally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAI GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The possibility of diversion of subsidized domesti LPG cylinders by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to the wide ga between the retail price of LPG for domestic use and the market price for commercial LPG

In order to stop diversion of domestic LPG cylinders, the Government has enacte "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" (Contro Order) and formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001" which provides for pena action against LPG distributors indulging in diversion/blackmarketing of LPG. The Contro Order also specifies the size and specifications of cylinders which can be used for sale o domestic LPG.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints, these are investigated and if the complaint is established, suitable action is taken against the LPG distributor(s) in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). MDG provides for following action against the distributor:—

— Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.

— Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence.

— Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation of Supply & Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take action against blackmarketing/diversion of domestic LPG. Similarly, the Weights and Measures Departments of the States/UTs initiate legal action against those LPG distributors diverting LPG cylinders. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the blackmarketing/diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.

Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these